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Swan's Fine Books is pleased to present 18 choice editions of poetry from our shelves. Six of the items below are unique in some way – four of them are the only copies available online (as of this writing), and two are in unique bindings. May is the beginning of spring, and spring is the season of the poet—a time of natural reemergence, creative fertility and repose.

Poetry has a spirited power; and obligation to that power, to change communities, to change ideas; good poets know the power of the words. To impart meaning is to become a part of that meaning and to speak to the deepest thresholds of the human soul. In the words of Pablo Neruda, “you can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.”



The Canterbury Tales

Chaucer, Geoffrey; Gill, Eric (Illustrator)

Waltham Saint Lawrence: Golden Cockerel Press, 1929-1931.

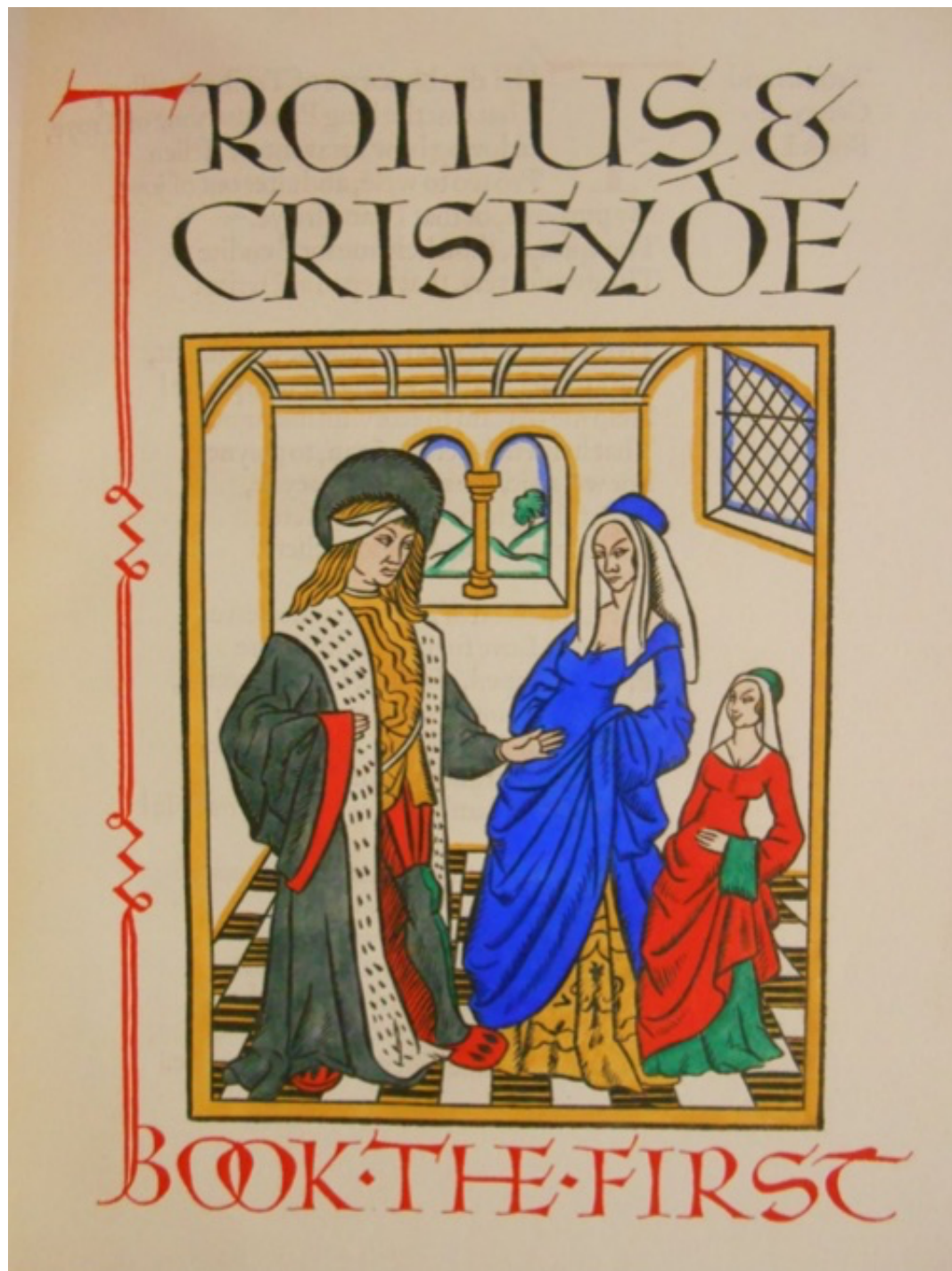
An astounding edition of Geoffrey Chaucer's (c. 1343-1400) classic work, replete with wood engravings by the inimitable Eric Gill (1882-1940), printed by Robert and Moira

Gibbings. A truly significant publication from the Golden Cockerel Press, and demonstrates the skill and creativity characteristic of its output. Published after nearly three years of work, with over 150 new wood engravings by Gill, as well as foliated borders on every page and initial capitals printed in colour; the text is from noted British philologist Walter William Skeat (1835-1912), and is an example of the Press's unceasing dedication to fine printing and book illustration during the twentieth century's golden age of private press printing.

Offered with the set are both the "Autumn 1927" and "Spring 1928" GCP announcements, which together serve as a prospectus for "The Canterbury Tales".

Item #19020101

Price: \$14,000.00



The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer

Stratford-Upon-Avon: Printed at the Shakespeare Head Press...and published for the Press by Basil Blackwell, 1928-1929.

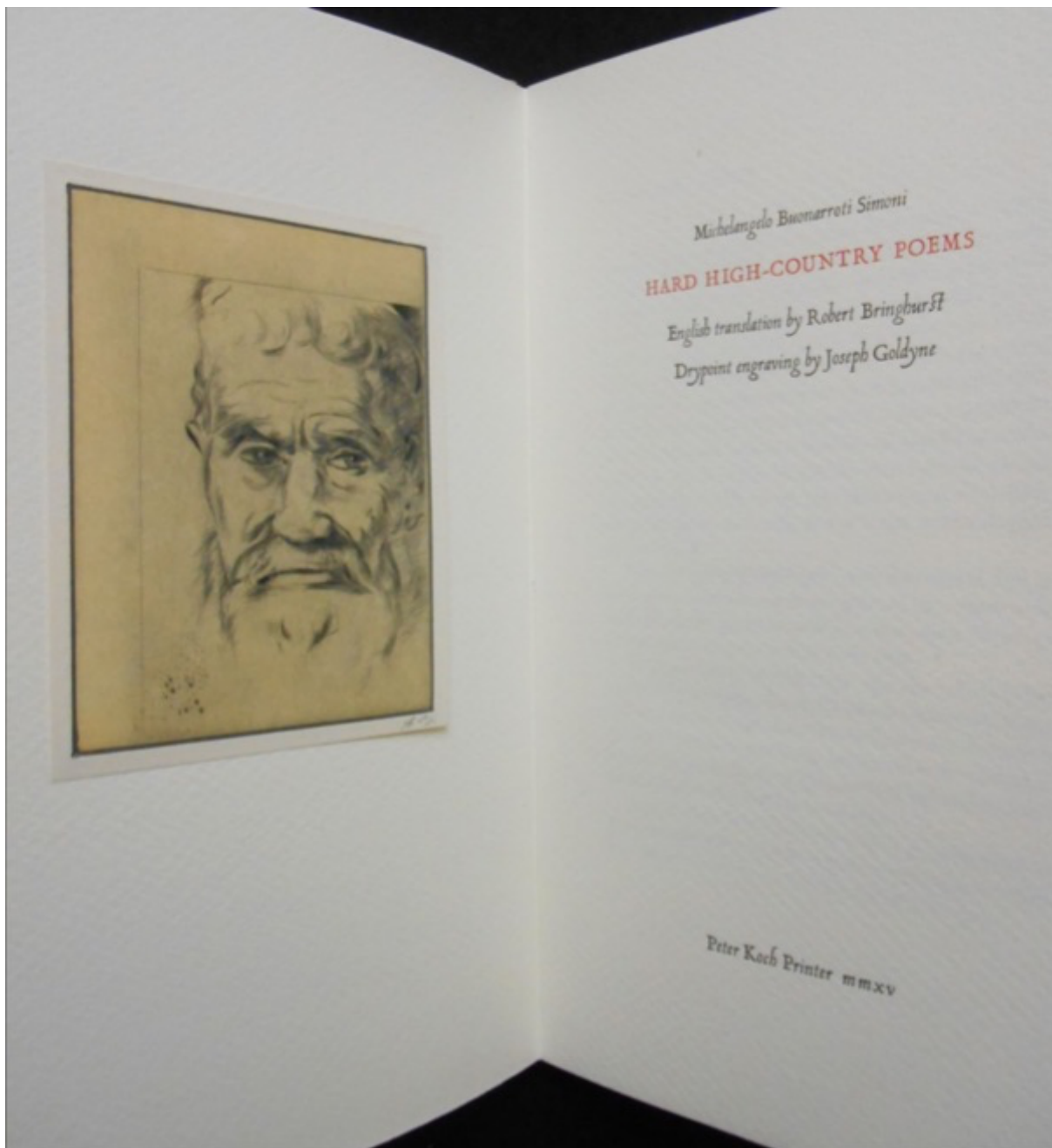
This eight-volume set comprises much of Geoffrey Chaucer's (ca. 1343-1400) significant work, including "The Canterbury Tales", "Boecii de Consolacione Philosophie", "The Romaunt of the Rose", "Troilus and Criseyde", as well as a myriad

of his minor poems. The text used was that "prepared under the editorship of Dr. A.W. Pollard for the Globe edition since revised by him".

The Shakespeare Head Press brings the full force of its talents to the design of these books, with titles, initials and paragraph marks in blue and red, drawn by Joscelyn V. Gaskin, in each volume. Volumes I, II, III and the beginning of Volume IV (all of the Tales of Canterbury) are also graced with hand-coloured, full-colour marginal drawings reproduced by Hugh Chesterman from the fourteenth-century Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales"; Volume V, "Boece" contains chapter headpieces drawn by Lynton H. Lamb from woodcuts in a copy printed in Lyons ca. 1508-1525. Loosely inserted into Volume I is a small leaf from the Press crediting Hugh Chesterman with the illustrations of the Canterbury Pilgrims which "have been freely drawn".

Item #CNSZ03

Price: \$2,000.00



Hard High-Country Poems & The Typographic Legacy of Ludovico Degli Arrighi

Michelangelo; Bringhurst, Robert (Translator); Goldyne, Joseph (Artist); Hugill-
Fontanel, Amelia (Photographer)

Berkeley, California: Peter Koch Printer, 2015.

In the volume "Hard High-Country Poems", ten of Michelangelo's poems, addressed to or about Vittoria Colonna, a woman he formed a relationship with later in his life, are collected. "The Typographic Legacy of Ludovico Degli Arrighi" is an essay by Canadian poet and typographer Robert Bringhurst (b. 1946) about the work of Ludovico Degli Arrighi (1475-1527), a prominent type designer in Renaissance Italy. Bringhurst also provides the translations of Michelangelo's poems for this publication.

This lovely publication by the inimitable Peter Koch has a stunning attention to detail, as the typefaces used are based on italics designed in the 1520s by Arrighi, and the slipcase is covered in a reproduction of an Arrighi type specimen sheet; a fascinating combination of poetry and typography from the Italian Renaissance.

Item #18092001

Price: \$950.00



The English Poems of John Milton

Milton, John; Blake, William (Illustrator)

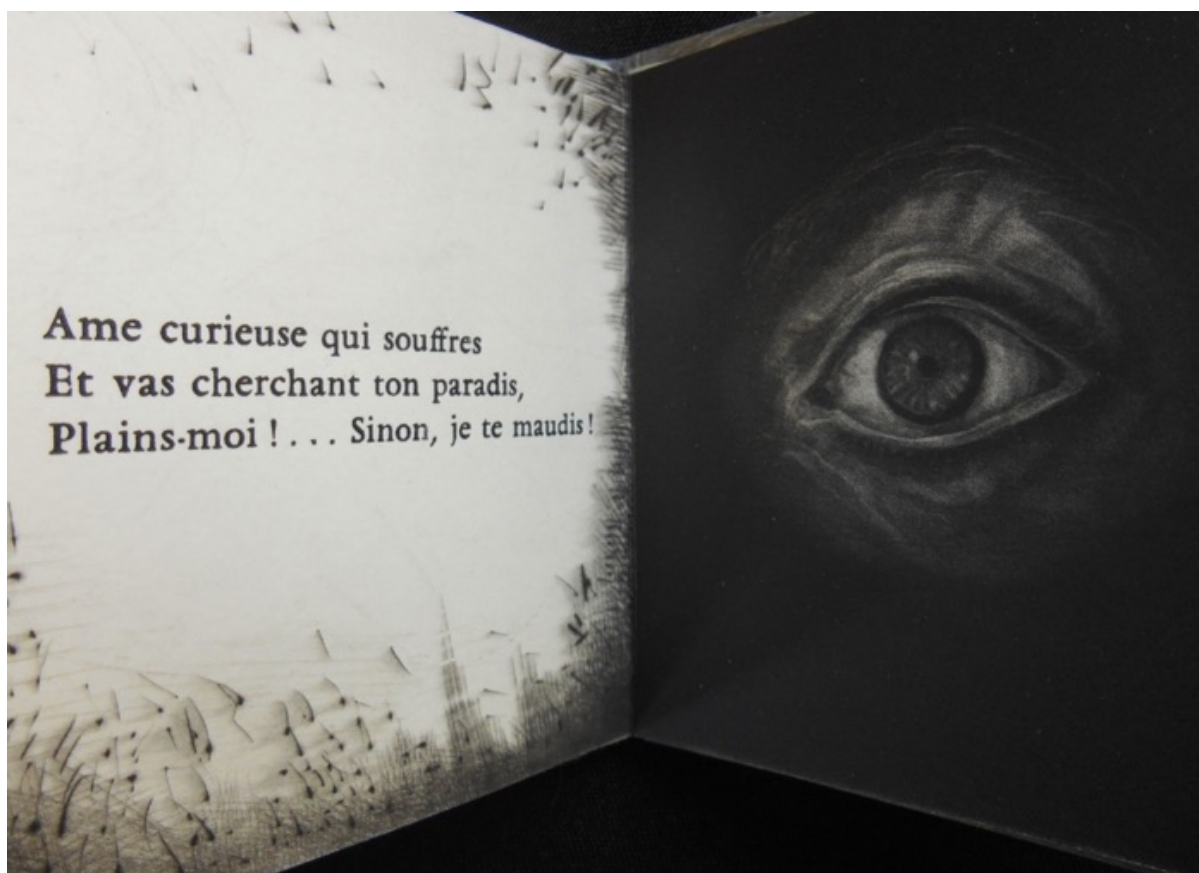
London: The Nonesuch Press, 1926. Blake, William.

The text of this edition of Milton's English poems is, by arrangement with the delegates

of the Oxford University Press, that edited by the late Canon Beeching after the earliest printed copies of the several poems. The illustrations by Blake were chosen and titled by Geoffrey Keynes. This copy comes from the library of Henry Rouse Viets (1890-1969), a neurologist, medical historian, and member of Harvard's Faculty of Medicine for thirty-six years.

Item #CNJL1015

Price: \$1,750.00



Epigraphe pour un Livre Condamne
[Epigraph for a Condemned Book]

Baudelaire, Charles; Rothchild, Judith (Artist)

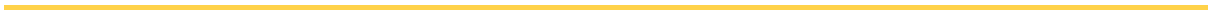
[Octon, France]: Verdigris, 2007.

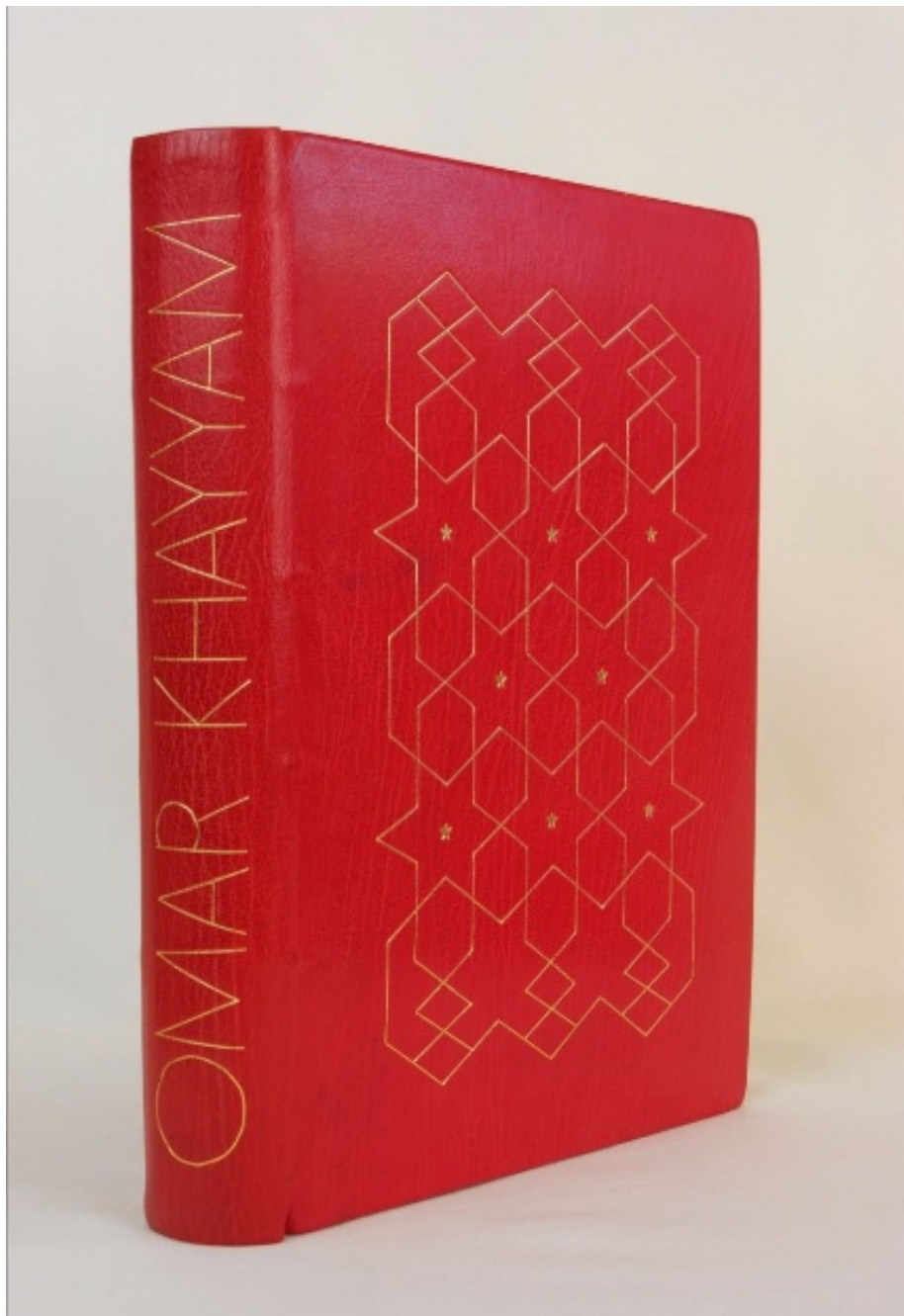
This poem by Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) was intended as an epigraph for the second edition of "Le Fleurs du mal", first published in 1857 and a major work of both the symbolism and modernist movements. "Epigraphe" was never used in the second edition, but was inserted into the third edition of "Le Fleurs du mal", and the poem is printed here as an accordion book inside a case.

This edition is heightened by rich prints by Judith Rothchild (b. 1950), with heavy drypoint marks surrounding the text of the poem and mezzotints at the beginning and end of the accordion. The darkly haloed eyes on either end of the poem evoke the challenge presented by Baudelaire: "Ton oeil sait plonger dans les gouffres. . .[Your eye knows how to dive into the chasms. . .]".

Item #CNJL474

Price: \$750.00





Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Fitzgerald, Edward (Translator)

London: Lewis Rouse Jones (Typography) / Susan Allix (Binding), 1973.

The "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam", translated by Edward Fitzgerald according to his first edition. The Rubaiyat captured the imagination of the literary world and has inspired countless versions, many by highly regarded artists. This version, with artwork by Susan Allix, uses embossed prints to present a tactile set of pages that use geometrically inspired shapes to interpret the poetry. Each page is a delight to both the

eye and the touch. Bound in a unique full crimson morocco with a gold-tooled geometric pattern interspersed with stars on the front (one of a kind item).

Item #CNJL504

Price: \$7,000.00

ULYSSES

*Myth is the nothing that's everything.
The same sun that opens the skies
Is a mute and brilliant myth —
God's body, dead,
Naked, alive.*

*The one who landed here
Continued to be by not existing.
Non-existent, he sufficed.
By not coming he came
And he created us.*

*Thus the legend runs down
Into realty,
Impregnating it, and passing away.
Down below, life, a half
Of nothing, dies.*



***Fernando Pessoa, A Tribute; 10 Poems
Translated on the Occasion of the 100th***

Anniversary of His Birth by George Monteiro

Pessoa, Fernando; Monteiro, George (Translator); Feldman, Walter (Artist)

Providence, R.I. Ziggurat Press, [1988].

This edition printed by Walter Feldman (1925-2017), an art professor at Brown University who established the Ziggurat Press in 1984. The book includes four poems by Fernando Pessoa himself, and two each respectively by his three major heteronyms, each translation accompanied by the Portuguese text handwritten by four different people, referring of course, to those four major "persons" who authored Pessoa's poetry. The accordion binding was used to retain the four deckled edges of the Japanese paper, another layer of form to reflect the content.

Item #CNJL1253

Price: \$1,200.00



MONG the smoke and fog of a December afternoon
 You have the scene arrange itself - as it will seem to do -
 With "I have saved this afternoon for you";
 And four wax candles in the darkened room,

Four rings of light upon the ceiling overhead,
 An atmosphere of Juliet's tomb
 Prepared for all the things to be said, or left unsaid.
 We have been, let us say, to hear the latest Pole
 Transmit the Preludes, through his hair and finger-tips.
 "So intimate, this Chopin, that I think his soul
 Should be resurrected only among friends
 Some two or three, who will not touch the bloom
 That is rubbed and questioned in the concert room."
 --And so the conversation slips
 Among velleities and carefully caught regrets
 Through attenuated tones of violins
 Mingled with remote cornets

Ara Vos Prec [Ara Vos Prec]

Eliot, T. S.

[London]: The Ovid Press, [1920].

This volume was published by The Ovid Press, the imprint of John Rodker (1894-1955), a modernist writer himself, whose press, although short-lived, published works of many modernist writers and artists, including Ezra Pound and Wyndham Lewis. This collection of Eliot's poetry includes "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", Eliot's first professionally published poem and a seminal work of modernism.

Item #19012201 .

Price: \$2,400.00

This edition of *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot was printed in Dante type by Giovanni Mardersteig on the hand-press of the Officina Bodoni in Verona. The edition consists of 300 numbered copies on paper made by Fratelli Magnani, Pescia. All are signed by the author.

DECEMBER · MCMLXI



T.S. Eliot

The Waste Land

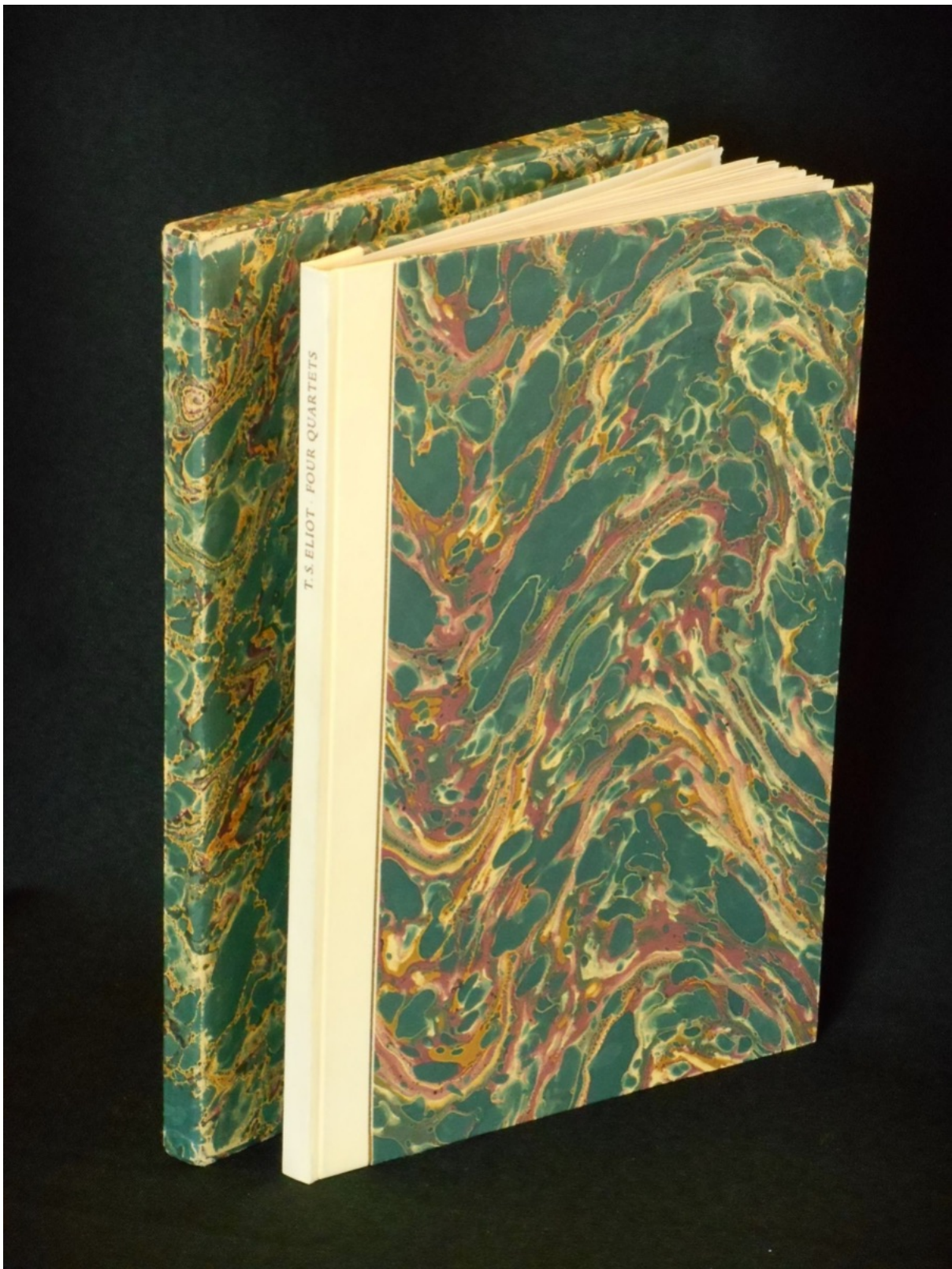
Eliot, T.S.

London: Faber and Faber, [1961]. Signed by the author.

There is no finer way to read Eliot than in the fine letterpress editions printed by Giovanni Mardersteig (1892-1977) at Officina Bodoni, known for the highest quality craftsmanship. The present volume is printed in Dante type, one of the innovative types designed by Mardersteig after earlier Humanist typefaces.

Item #CNJL987

Price: \$4,500.00



Four Quartets

Eliot, T.S.

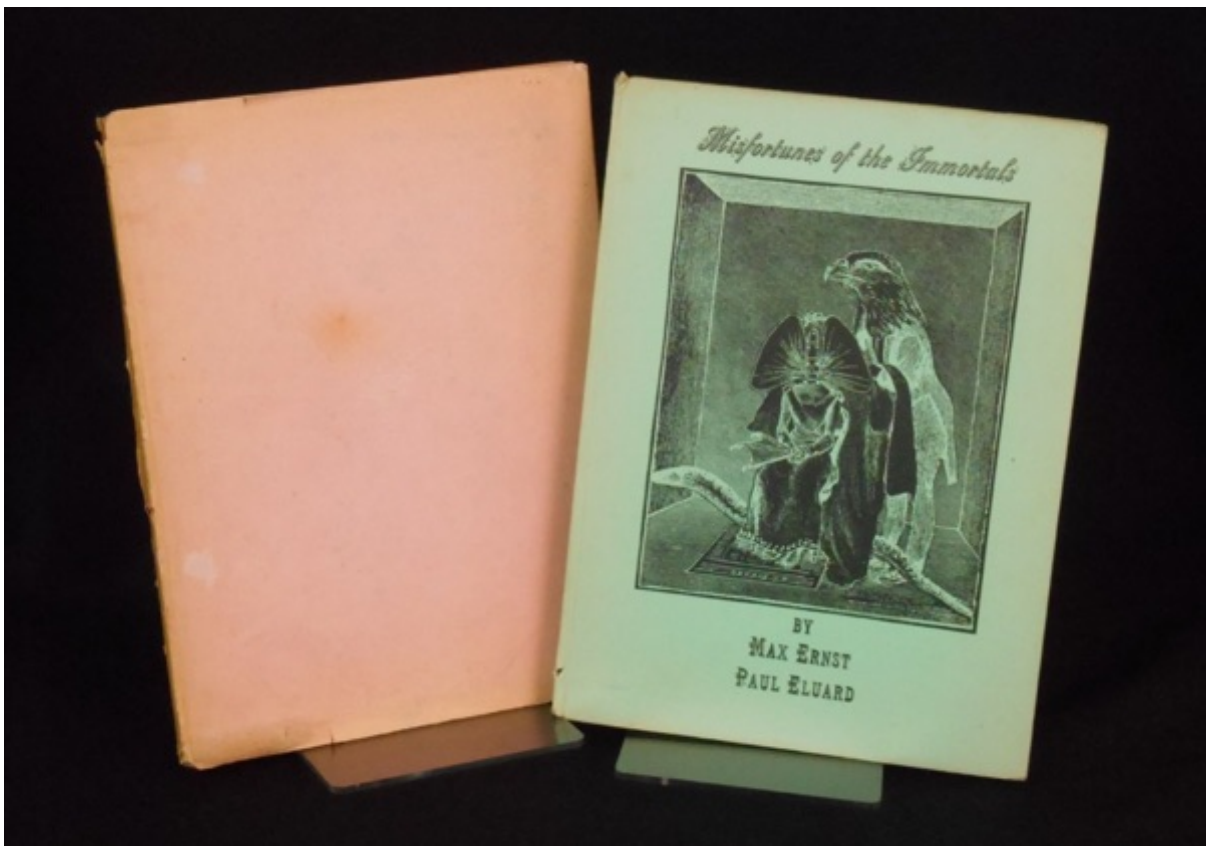
London: Faber & Faber, [1960]. Signed by the author.

The "Four Quartets" is widely considered to be one of T. S. Eliot's (1888-1965) finest works, besides *The Waste Land*. Consisting of four interlinked meditations which blend Eliot's Anglo-Catholicism with mystical and philosophical works, drawing from both East and West.

Another fine edition of Eliot printed at Officina Bodoni. The present volume is also printed in the iconic Dante typeface.

Item #CNJL988

Price: \$4,500.00



Misfortunes of the Immortals

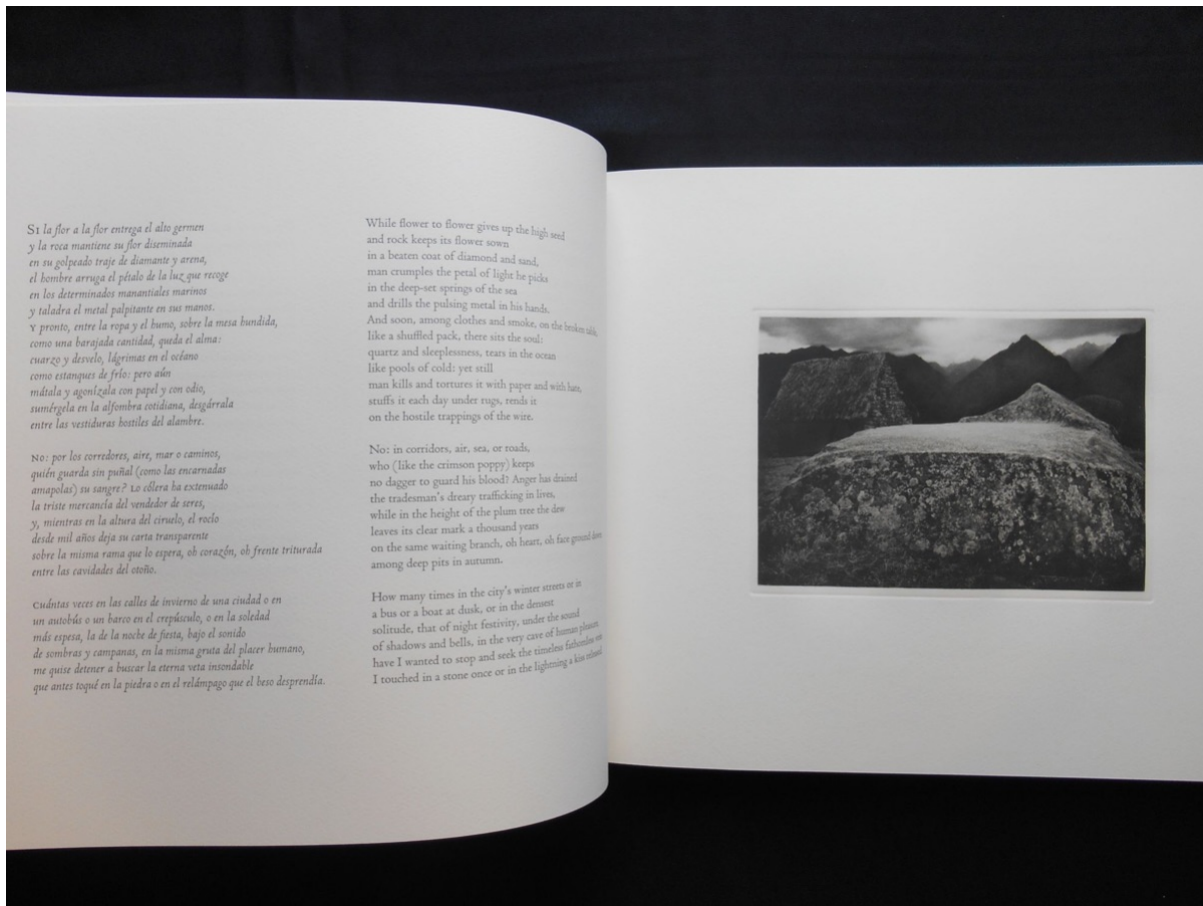
Ernst, Max and Eluard, Paul; Chisholm, Hugh (Translator)

[New York]: The Black Sun Press [printed at the Gemor Press], 1943.

Misfortunes of the Immortals is a collaboration between two of the great surrealist artists, painter and sculptor Max Ernst (1891-1976) and poet Paul Eluard (1895-1985), and this illustrated book marks the beginning of their friendship. First published in 1920, the book contains the beautifully surreal lyrics of Eluard, with collages by Ernst.

Item #18111504

Price: \$750.00



Heights of Macchu Picchu

Neruda, Pablo; Felstiner, John (Translator); Ranney, Edward (Artist)

[New York]: The Limited Editions Club (1998), 1998. Signed by the artist.

Limited edition of 300 copies, this no. 56, with monthly newsletter loosely laid in. This volume is a portion of the Canto General (General Song) which consists of more than 15,000 lines, being a telling of the entire American Western Hemisphere from an Hispanic American perspective; it is a beautiful poem of praise to the continent as it flourished before the arrival of the Spanish. Wonderfully brought to life by the photogravures of the work of Edward Ranney (b. 1942), who has been internationally recognized for his images of Inca and Mayan landscapes and architecture.

Item #CNJL385

Price: \$2,000.00



Swish of Cow Tail

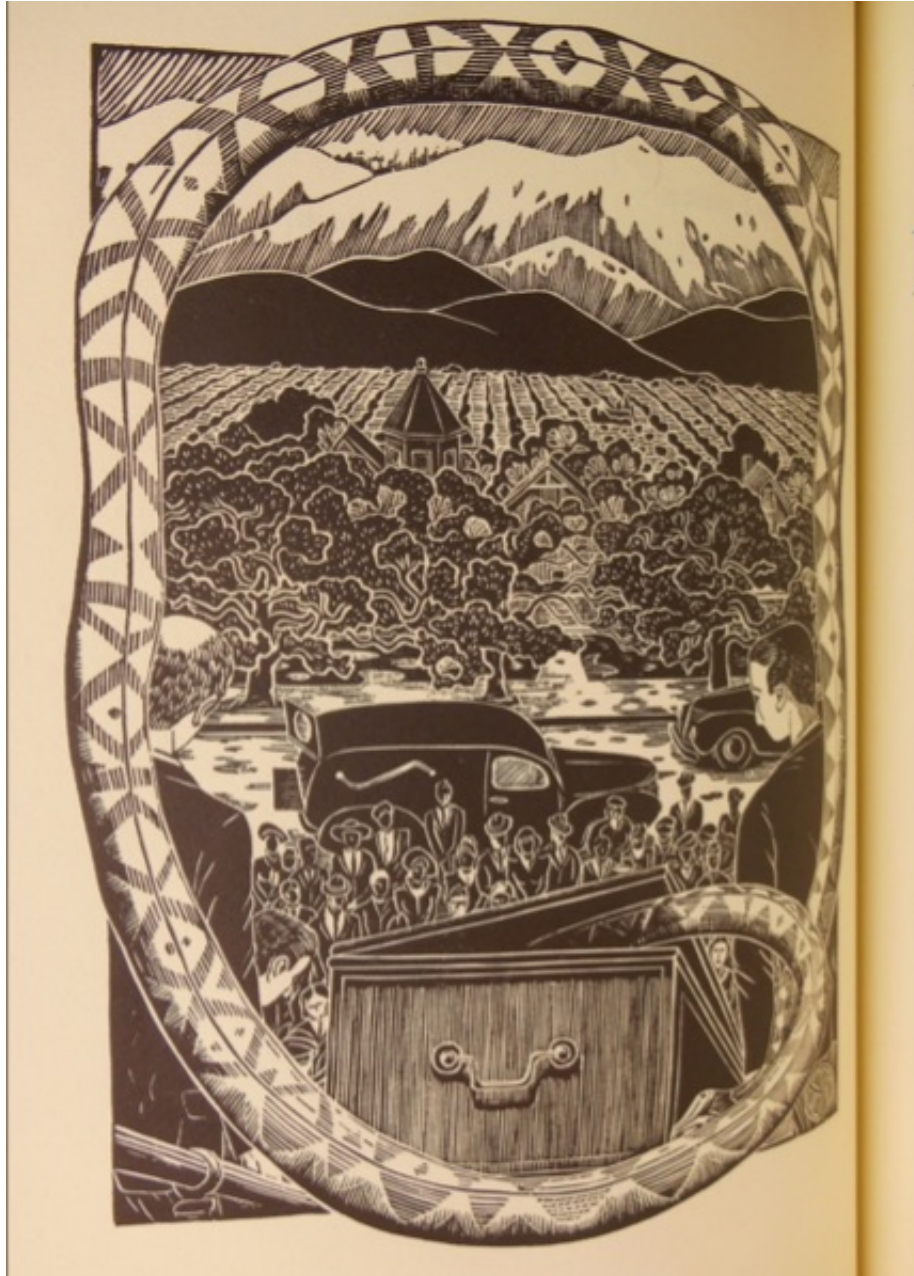
Roseliep, Raymond; Vlakov, Jon (Illustrations)

Amherst: Swamp Press, 1982.

Poet Raymond Roseliep (1917-1983) was considered a master of the English haiku, and *Swish of Cow Tail* contains several of these poems. Poignantly observant and gently enigmatic, the poems form a rhythm carried by the accordion shape of this tiny book, accompanied by illustrations by Jon Vlakov, who creates natural and figurative forms that are absorbed in small fragments, much like the text, in a series of quiet, isolated moments. (This is a unique edition online.)

Item #17111001

Price: \$175.00



In Medias Res

Everson, William; Killion, Tom (Illustrations)

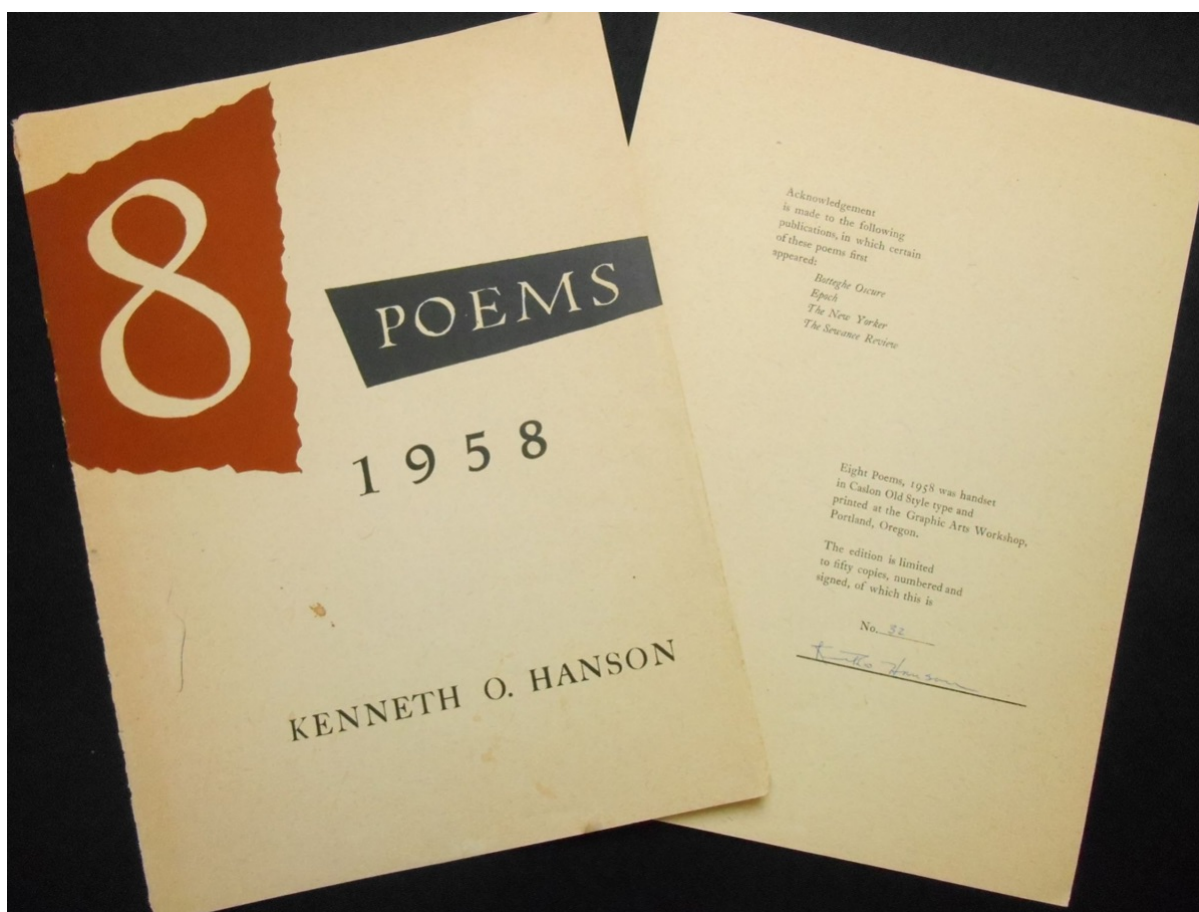
San Francisco: Adrian Wilson, (1984).

William Everson (1912-1994), also known as Brother Antoninus, is considered an essential force of the San Francisco literary Renaissance that would become the Beat movement. Everson's poetry is deeply autobiographical and inspired by the California landscape. "In Medias Res" is the first canto of an autobiographical poem, printed by Adrian Wilson (1923-1988), who ran The Press in Tuscany Alley and this publication is their first full collaboration.

This volume contains woodcuts by American artist and author Tom Killion (b. 1953), whose illustrations display exquisite detail of line and shape; Killion learned printmaking and bookbinding from Jack Stauffacher of the Greenwood Press, another prominent printer in the Bay Area.

Item #19031215

Price: \$350.00



Eight Poems, 1958 [8 Poems]

Hanson, Kenneth O.

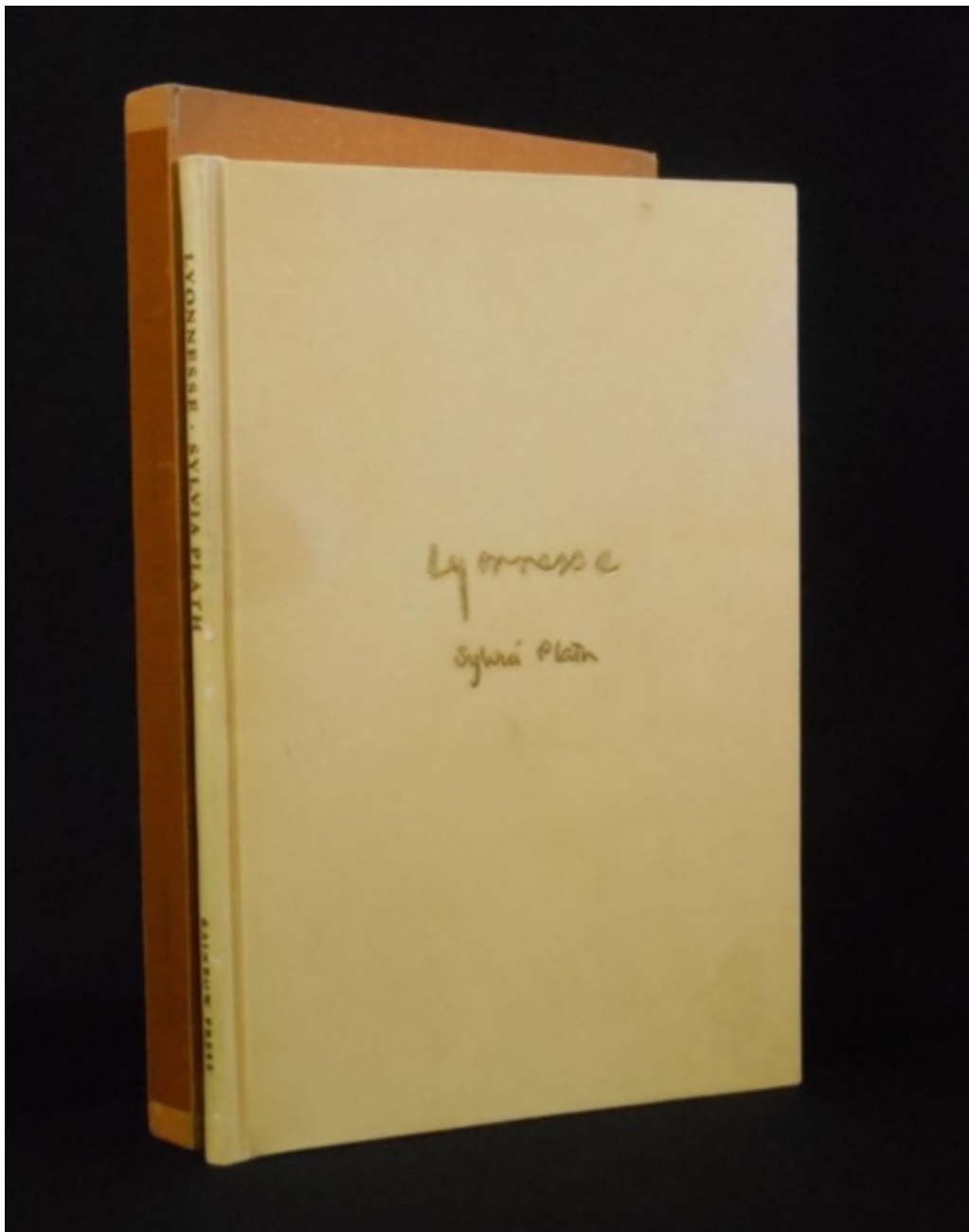
Portland, Oregon: Graphic Arts Workshop, 1958. Signed by the author.

The poetry of Kenneth O. Hanson (1922-2003) has been celebrated for its frankness and raw approach to the real, to the collected experiences of the everyday. These eight poems are some of Hanson's earlier work, before the publication of his first book in 1966; the poems are loosely held in a paper folio, offering an immediate intimacy and simplicity that befits the gentle language.

Included also are six pages of typescript of the poems in this set; the poem "On a Dead Cat in Mexico" has hand-written corrections in blue pen, presumably by the poet, as the corrected text is in the printed version of the poem. (This is a unique edition online.)

Item #16020574

Price: \$400.00



Lyonnesse

Plath, Sylvia

London: Rainbow Press, 1971.

The third book published by Rainbow Press, the imprint of Ted Hughes (1930-1998) and his sister Olwyn Hughes, "Lyonnesse" is a collection of previously unpublished poems by Sylvia Plath (1932-1963).

This volume of "Lyonnesse" is the deluxe edition (only ten were thus bound), featuring a gorgeous vellum binding and endpapers with facsimiles of two of Plath's poems in the book; it is a testament to the care and detail given by Ted and Olwyn Hughes to their publications at Rainbow Press, as well as to the poignant poetry of Sylvia Plath. (Only copy available online in full vellum.)

Item #19011809

Price: \$1,500.00



Oxford Poetry Broad sides; First Series

Carson, Anne; Cope, Wendy; Crawford, Robert; Fuller, John; Heaney, Seamus; and McGuckian, Medbh; Williams, David-Antoine (Editor, Oxford Poetry Broad sides)

[Gloucestershire]: Evergreen Press, 2005.

The first of three series of broad sides celebrating ninety-five years of new writing in Oxford. Beautifully printed by John Grice of the Evergreen Press. The broad sides include: "Things That Happen Again" by Anne Carson, "Spared" by Wendy Cope, "A Gean Tree" by Robert Crawford, "Hendre Fawr" by John Fuller, "A Stove Lid for W.H. Auden" by Seamus Heaney, and "Yellow Ultramarine" by Medbh McGuckian. A choice collection of poems from six fine modern poets. (Unique online as of this writing.)

Item #CNJL567

Price: \$700.00



The Green Woman / Die Grune

Jamie, Kathleen; Saltzwedel, Caroline (Artist)

Hamburg: Hirundo Press, 1999.

Caroline's works are often paired with original, new works of poetry such as this one:

"The Green Woman / Die Grune" is a bilingual edition of three poems written by Kathleen Jamie which appeared simultaneously in her collection *Jizzen* (Picador, London 1999). The poems appear alongside four etchings by Caroline Saltzwedel, who also wrote the translations. (Unique online as of this writing.)

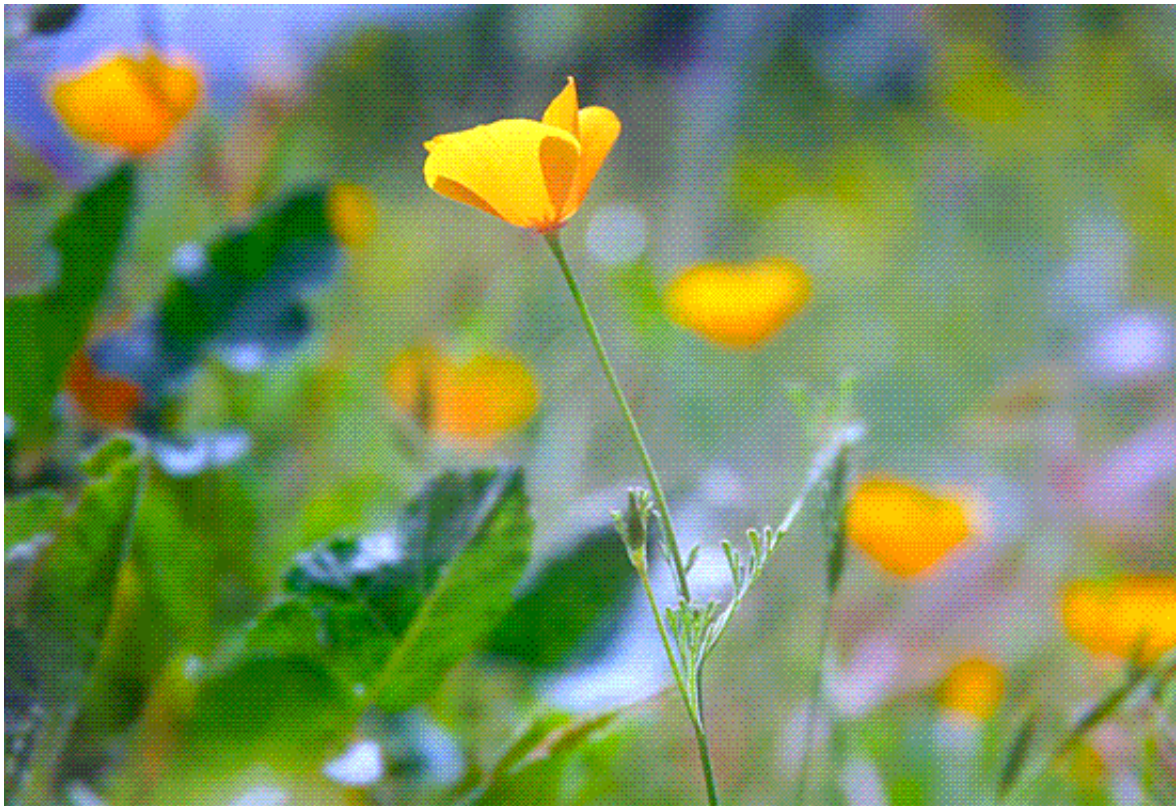
Item #CNJL1240

Price: \$500.00

The Fine Print

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